

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 /066 W

----- 011852

R 150726Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2748

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6410

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, CH

SUBJ: THAI-CHINESE RELATIONS

SUMMARY. DESPITE FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN'S INTIMATIONS TO THE LOCAL PRESS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HE WILL VISIT THE PRC ANY TIME SOON, OR THAT THE RTG IS RUSHING HEADLONG TOWARDS IMMINENT TRADE OR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MAINLAND CHINA. END SUMMARY.

1. CHATCHAI HAS, IN RECENT WEEKS, MADE SEVERAL COMMENTS TO THE PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT HE MIGHT BE VISITING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC) SOMETIME EITHER THIS SPRING OR SUMMER. IT NOW APPEARS THAT WE SHOULD NOT TAKE THESE GLIB DECLARATIONS TOO SERIOUSLY. SHORTLY AFTER THE FIRST MENTION ON MARCH 28, A WORKING LEVEL OFFICIAL IN MFA TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT CHATCHAI WAS ONLY JOKING WITH THE PRESS TO FEND OFF THEIR QUESTIONS AND REALLY MEANT THAT HE MIGHT GO ANYTIME, OR NOT AT ALL.

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2. MORE RECENTLY, CHATCHAI'S PRIVATE SECRETARY TOLD THE

SAME OFFICER THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA WERE NOT AT ALL IMMINENT, THAT CHATCHAI HAD NO DEFINITE PLANS TO VISIT PEKING, AND THAT THE RTG HAD NOT EVEN BEGUN TO CONSIDER COMPREHENSIVELY ALL THE RAMIFICATIONS THAT CHANGED THAI-PRC RELATIONS WOULD HAVE FOR OTHER RTG FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS.

3. COMMENT. IT IS BECOMING AN ARTICLE OF FAITH IN BANGKOK THAT CHATCHAI WANTS TO GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS THE MAN WHO OPENED THAI-PRC RELATIONS. CHATCHAI IS POSSIBLY FISHING FOR AN INVITATION FROM PEKING, SINCE WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THE PRC HAS ISSUED HIM ONE. WE BELIEVE THAT RTG POLICY ON THE RECOGNITION OF THE PRC IS INCHOATE. WE DO NOT LOOK FOR CHATCHAI'S EARLY DEPARTURE FOR PEKING WITH A GOVERNMENT MANDATE TO OPEN RELATIONS.
MASTERS

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